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## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/USSR/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 December 1952

SUBJECT      Installation and Procurement of Electric Steel  
                 Furnaces by Czechoslovakia

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1. The steel plant of the Chemosvit Svit National Corporation, located at Svit (Q 50/D 68), in the Tatra mountain area of Slovakia, has placed in operation a new 100 kw high frequency electric furnace. This furnace is utilized in the processing of steel prior to pouring into casting molds. The furnace was designed and installed by Siemens & Halske of Vienna.
2. During early 1952 one 6-ton electric furnace was placed in operation at the steel plant 1 located at Dubnica nad Vahom (P 49/T 69), Slovakia. Another 4-ton electric furnace will begin operation on 20 October 1952.
3. During 1952 one new 10-ton electric furnace was placed in operation at the steel complex 2 in the Pilsen area. A 6-ton furnace will be ready for operation by the end of 1952. Another 10-ton furnace is under construction and will be placed in operation in June 1953.
4. At the Zdar<sup>3</sup> steel complex two 10-ton electric furnaces are already operating. One 4-ton electric furnace will be installed before the end of 1952.
5. a. The USSR has actively entered the field of provision of steel electric furnaces for Czechoslovakia. The Soviets successfully bid on a contract for the delivery of ten 10-ton electric furnaces to unknown locations. Formerly Austrian and Belgian manufacturers received most of the furnace orders from Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet provision represents a radical change in the Czech order pattern.
- b. The Soviet furnaces are stated to be almost exact copies of a 10-ton electric furnace sent from Italy to Hungary in 1949. It is also said that the Soviets have begun serial production on the basis of the Italian model, although technically the Italian model is inferior to current Austrian, British, and American models.

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c. The Investa Corporation, which is charged with planning for the Czech steel industry, has been considerably hampered by the Soviet order situation. The Soviets have promised to make delivery of the furnaces but to date have not provided any construction plans or parts of the furnaces. Investa now does not know whether -despite Soviet assurances - they can count on the delivery of the furnaces, or whether they should place furnace orders in Austria and other areas.

6. The planning section of Investa has been authorized to initiate action aimed at the procurement of six or seven additional electric furnaces (4 to 10 ton capacity) plus three additional furnaces (capacity unspecified); the latter furnaces are to be used for "special purposes" (details unknown; possibly special treatment of high grade steels).

7. The German Democratic Republic (DDR) also has offered to furnish electric furnaces to Czechoslovakia, but the Czechs are skeptical of the ability of East Germany to meet specifications and the desired delivery deadlines.

1.  Comment. Presumably the K.Y. Voroshilov Works, formerly Skoda.

2.  Comment. Presumably the V.I. Lenin Works, formerly Skoda.

3.  Comment. Probably Mesto Zdar (O 50/M 93), also known as Zdar nad Sazavou. The reference may be to the Metal Goods Works National Corporation (Tovarny na kovove zbozi, n.p.) at this location.

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